



Washington State Auditor's Office

Troy Kelley

Integrity • Respect • Independence

Accountability Audit Report

Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority

King County

For the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013

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Washington State Auditor Troy Kelley

December 29, 2014

Council
Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority
Seattle, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for Authority operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

The attached comprises our report on the Authority's compliance and safeguarding of public resources. Our independent audit report describes the overall results and conclusions for areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR
OLYMPIA, WA

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AUDIT SUMMARY

Results in brief

In the areas we audited, Authority operations complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources. The Authority also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the Authority's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Conflict of interest/ethics laws
- Payroll/personnel
- Compliance with grant requirements

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

A financial statement audit was performed by a firm of certified public accountants. That firm's report is available from the Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUTHORITY

The Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority was chartered by the city of Seattle in 1973 to preserve and enhance the city's architectural heritage. In addition to preservation activities, the Authority was established to promote public understanding of the city's history, develop residential housing, enhance cultural activities, improve open space in public areas and balance transportation and pedestrian areas. It also sponsors educational programs to raise awareness about the area's architectural heritage. The Authority works closely with the Historic Seattle Preservation Foundation, which raises funds to assist in preservation projects.

A 12-member volunteer Council governs the Authority, with four members appointed by the Mayor of the city of Seattle, four members appointed by Historic Seattle membership and four members appointed by the Authority's Council. The Authority owns and operates the Good Shepherd Center, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and an official city of Seattle landmark. The Good Shepherd Center houses nonprofit organizations and schools and offers six low-income units for artist living/work space. The Authority's operating budget is approximately \$2 million and it has seven full-time and nine part-time employees.

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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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